State/UT	Total No. of Districts	Dists. Covered under TLC (Fully/ Partly)	Dist. Covered under PLC
Sikkim	4	—	—
Tamil Nadu	29	23	17
Tripura	4	3	—
Uttar Pradesh	68	65	8
West Bengal	18	17	12
A & N Islands	2	—	—
Chandigarh	1	1	1
Dadra & N. Haveli	1	1	—
Daman & Diu	2	1	—
Delhi	1	1	—
Lakshadweep	1	—	—
Pondicherry	4	4	4
TOTAL	527	410	169

Distance Education through Satellite TV Channels

193. DR. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the working group of the Department of Education has recommended any positive measures for the expansion of Distance Education through satellite TV channels;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is a timeframe to formulate the recommendations; and

(d) whether his Ministry is considering a join working group of the Department of Education and Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to draw up feasible plans and the methodology of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) A working group was set up in the Department of Education to recommend measures for rapid expansion of open learning/distance education. The working group in its first meeting set up a sub-group to look into various aspects and formalise the requirements for educational channel. The sup-group has made certain recommendations regarding the preferred medalities of transmission, costs involved in preparing programmes and the subject concentration. Based on these recommendation, discussions have been held with the Ministry of I & B, with a view to starting the educational broadcast through the Doordarshan network, at the earliest.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Flood in Andhra Pradesh

194. SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI N. GIRI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the damages caused by the recent rains, cyclone and floods in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) the financial assistance extended by the Central Government for relief and rehabilitation work?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA): (a) According to preliminary information received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the cyclone, heavy rains and floods during the first week of November, 1996, affected four districts in the State claiming 971 human lives, damaging about 6.48 lakh houses and crops over an area of 5.11 lakh hectares.

(b) Andhra Pradesh has a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of Rs. 124.19 crores during 1996-97 for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. Government of India have already released its entire share of Rs. 93.14 crores. This includes the advance release of the fourth instalment of Central share of CRF of Rs. 23.285 crores. Pending detailed assessment of